

Special
Holiday
Edition!

VOLUME 67 • ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 18, 1996

SHAKERITE

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL · 15911 ALDERSYDE DRIVE · SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO 44120

Rah-rah! Sis, boom, bah!

The winter sports season has arrived, and athletes, students and administrators are ecstatic over a rise in attendance at sporting events

WINTER SPORTS ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

-Men's Basketball-
Dec. 20: at Lakewood
Dec. 26-27: North Coast Classic at CSU
Jan. 4: at Cen. Catholic
Jan. 7: Parma
Jan. 10: Mentor
Jan. 18: at Warrensville
Jan. 24: Normandy
Jan. 28: at Garfield Hts.
Jan. 31: at Parma
Feb. 4: at Benedictine

-Ice Hockey-
Dec. 19-22: Thornton Park Tournament
Dec. 26-29: Cleveland Heights Tournament
Jan. 3: at St. Edward
Jan. 8: at University
Jan. 10: Padua
Jan. 17: St. Edward
Jan. 24: Cleveland Hts.
Jan. 25: at St. Ignatius

-Swimming-
Dec. 20: Lakewood
Dec. 21: CSU Invit.
Jan. 9: at Cleveland Hts.
Jan. 10: Solon Big-8 (Women)
Jan. 11: Big-8 (Men)

-Women's Basketball-
Dec. 18: at Lakewood
Dec. 21: at Shaw
Dec. 30: at Collinwood
Jan. 4: Mentor
Jan. 8: Valley Forge
Jan. 11: Warrensville

-Wrestling-
Dec. 27-28: Brecksville Tournament
Jan. 3: Lakewood
Jan. 4: Shaw
Jan. 10: at Mentor
Jan. 11: at Valley Forge
Jan. 17: Warrensville
Jan. 24: at Normandy

BY MILES BERGER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The team scores and the fans go wild! They leap up and down in the stands, screaming obscenities at the rival fans and hurling dead animals onto the playing surface. Is this the scene at a professional sports game? No, it's the scene at a Shaker hockey game.

"This year, everybody is going to the hockey games," senior Grant Keating said. "The parents and adults have their section of the stands, we [the students] have our section, and the opposing fans have their section across the ice. Thornton Park is a great place to see the team play because it's small enough that you feel really close to the action on the ice. It's also small enough that you can yell at the opposing fans across the ice, and they will actually hear you."

Many fans also attribute the popularity of attending hockey games to the outstanding play of the team, which is currently 4-0 in league games. Some fans even have their own favorite players.

"Going to the games now is a lot of fun because we [Shaker] are playing so well. Personally, I like the frosh Michael Perrin—he's a good defenseman, and me and my crew go wild whenever he comes out on the ice," junior T.J. Bannon said. "At one of the games, [junior] David Beard held up a poster saying Evan [Schwarz] is God."

Attendance is also up at hockey games this year because of the social atmosphere at the games, according to junior Aaron McMickle.

"Everybody gets real hype and rowdy, and there's a lot of hitting," junior Aaron McMickle said. "Most of my friends are there, and people talk about it around school. Everybody else is going to be there, so you go."

"It doesn't matter who you are normally, everybody acts wild at the hockey games. People scream, dance and get

much more hype than normal," Keating said.

This social atmosphere can also be found at home basketball games, according to senior Kalem Watts.

"The games are pretty cool: you get to see your team play, you see a lot of people and you check out the ladies. A lot of people also make plans at the game for what they are doing later that night," Watts said.

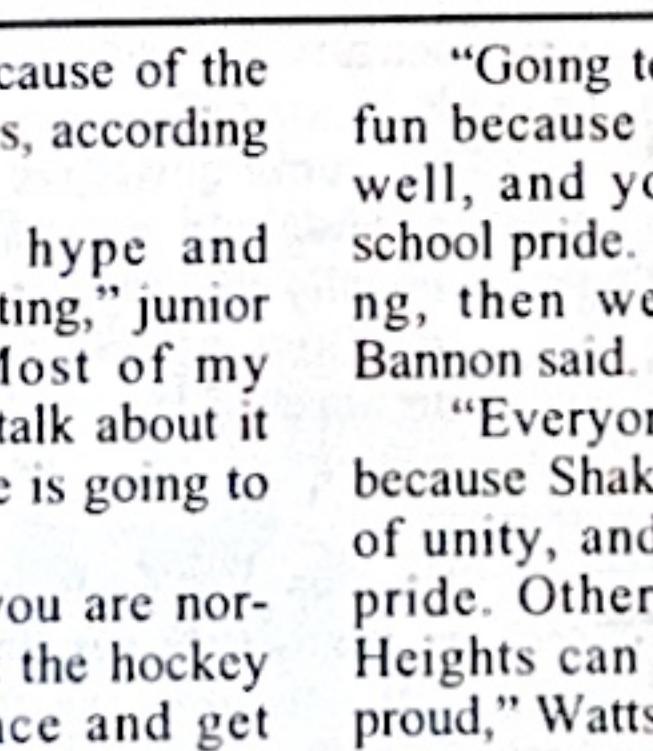
Yet, hockey and basketball games are not merely worth going to for the sake of the crowd atmosphere. Watts and Bannon both believe these games bring people together with school pride and unity in a way that only athletic events can.

"Going to the games now is a lot of fun because we [Shaker] are playing so well, and you just feel enveloped in school pride. If the other fans start chanting, then we just chant 'em down," Bannon said.

"Everyone feels good at the games because Shaker is winning. There's a lot of unity, and it really increases school pride. Other schools like [Cleveland] Heights can talk, but we can really be proud," Watts said.

66
The games are pretty cool: you get to see your team play, you see a lot of people and you check out the ladies.

- Senior Kalem Watts



Who's got spirit? We do, we do! This group of rowdy seniors prepares to root for their beloved school before a recent athletic event.

Shakerite photo courtesy of Emily West



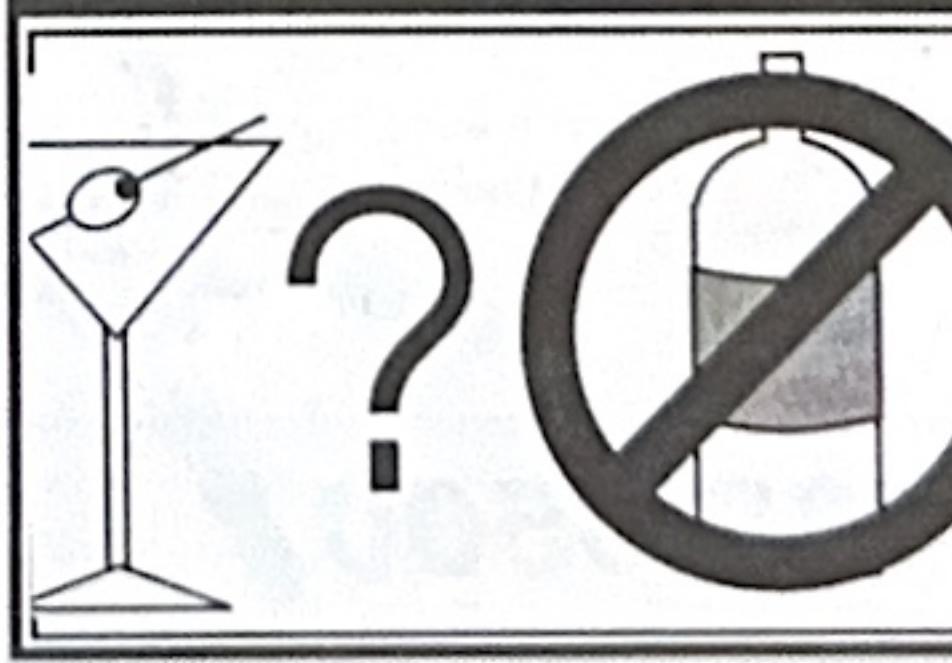
Colynn Shinn recently became the first Shaker Heights class of '97 graduate. Shinn, who suffers from a brain tumor, was visited by Dr. Rumbaugh, Dr. Freeman, Reverend McMickle and members of the choir in a small ceremony presenting her with a diploma.



3...2...1... HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ring in the new year with Centerpiece's holiday bash: where to go, what to do

PAGES 4-5



TO DRINK OR NOT TO DRINK

Co-Editors-in-Chief Miles Berger and Scott Fuller spar over teenage drinking

PAGE 7

Sadie Hawkins Winter Ball to be held Jan. 11

The first Student Council sponsored Sadie Hawkins dance will be held Jan. 11. Girls are to ask guys to the dance. The cost is 10 dollars per couple and five dollars per student. It is semi-formal, so homecoming attire will be most appropriate.

Students to receive new digital IDs

BY GRAHAM LANZ
Staff Reporter

Students will soon be receiving their identification cards for the '96-'97 school year. The delay is due to upgrades in the cards themselves, and they will be distributed once the production is completed, according to Principal A. Jack Rumbaugh.

The ID cards, once merely laminated pieces of paper with pictures of students on them, will now be able to be used in various ways. Some of these changes will be apparent on this year's cards, but others may come into effect in future years, Rumbaugh said.

The cards may be issued before the start of the second semester, Rumbaugh said. The cards will be made of hard plastic, like a credit card, and will have the holder's picture printed digitally, rather than attached with glue.

The cards will be able to be scanned by computers when necessary. When the card is scanned, the holder's picture will appear on the screen along with other student information, such as schedules. That way teachers, security guards and other staff members will know if the student is supposed to be in class, has a free period, or is suspended.

"I have never asked for an ID card, but it would be helpful to see all of a student's information if there actually was a problem," student teacher and hall monitor Missy Mager said.

This year's cards may be used to check out library books. Hathaway Brown School has a similar system at their library.

"At H.B. they had bar codes and it was much easier," freshman Heather Schubek said.

Later, the card's functions may be expanded to include the issuing of textbooks. Instead of filling out *dozens of book cards, teachers will only have to record the bar codes on a student's ID and the textbooks with a hand-held scanning device.*

It is remotely possible that these cards will be issued in time to be used to take attendance at the Winter Ball on Jan. 11, Rumbaugh said.

Possibly as soon as the '97-'98 school year, the cards will not only get students into dances, but into other co-curricular activities as well. For example, at sporting events students would have to present their ID at the gate. If the student is suspended, the computer will warn the adult not to let the student in. According to school policy, if a suspended student is found inside the gates of an event, that student faces further punishment.

"If a kid is suspended or expelled, he or she cannot get into co-curricular events," Rumbaugh said.

It is possible that future cards will also be used to pay for cafeteria lunches and items from the vending machines, as student IDs are used at some colleges and universities.

Junior Jeronie Barnes is not sure high school students are fiscally responsible enough to have this power.

"I see people in my homeroom with five hundred dollar book fines," Barnes said.

In addition to serving as a cafeteria credit card, the cards may also be used to access school computers, get seniors into the social room and, for elementary school students, will be used to take attendance on buses. They may even be used to take attendance at the high school, Rumbaugh said.

In the future, bus drivers may also use the cards to keep track of the fuel they get at their bus station.

Teachers may also be issued ID cards. Then, teachers would be able to get into the building after hours, open gates and turn off alarms. They may even have to present them to enter proposed gates on faculty parking lots.

The cost of the first card should be covered by activity fees. If a student loses his or her first card he or she must pay for a replacement.

Rumbaugh does caution, however, that students should not worry about losing their right to privacy.

"The system will be designed always with the issue of safety in mind, and as user-friendly as possible. As a high school, we are interested in these issues of privacy," Rumbaugh said.

The photos were all taken by digital cameras, making it possible to easily enter them into the school's computer system.

Future cards will probably have four or five magnetic strips on the back to serve different functions.

There are two or three capable vendors who are being considered to produce the cards for the school district, according to Rumbaugh.

Shaker Heights High School
Alicia Murphy
CS0974



Hi-tech IDs! The new student IDs to be issued to all students are digitally scanned and will serve many new purposes in the future.

ID courtesy of Dr. Rumbaugh

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YEH, Interact sponsor the annual food drive

BY MYRA MARESH
Staff Reporter

Youth Ending Hunger and Interact have teamed up for their annual food drive, going on now until Dec. 20.

Last year they collected 10,000 food items and they hope to top that this year, according to YEH supervisor and Spanish teacher Kimberly Ponce de Leon.

"It is important to give all year long, but especially at this time of year in order to think of others," Ponce de Leon said.

The items collected will go to the Malachi House, a West Side hospice for the terminally ill. Anyone, no matter what race, creed, or religion, is welcome there.

The Malachi House, being non-profit, has needs which must be met by outside sources.

"They have a wish list of things they need, and rather than giving our collection to a radio station, we donate it to the Malachi House so we know it is going to people who need it," junior Interact member Angela Goodwin said.

In addition to food items, cash donations are being accepted and can be given to teachers and faculty during school.

Food items are being collected as admission to the winter music concerts.

Incentives are being offered to help increase participation in the drive. For example, the class with the most food donated will receive a pizza party and the

club collecting the most will receive money for its own purposes.

Teachers also have discovered ways to motivate student involvement.

Last year, social studies teacher Terry Pollack offered his students a chance to raise some of their test grades if they won.

Other teachers are not as optimistic about such incentives and think students should give because they want to.

"In the past, I gave a few points here and there, but students began to think they could buy a better grade. I will try anything to get students to give, but I think there should not have to be an incentive to give," math teacher Dennis Hogue said.

Students involved think donating is a must and are actively campaigning about this project.

"The food drive always rushes up on people before the break. However, it is an easy and convenient way to help the less fortunate and it takes almost no time at all," senior YEH Co-President Erica Labovitz said.

Senior YEH Vice President and Interact President Anne Munro agreed with Labovitz.

"We should give because we can afford to and we also have the opportunities and advantages others do not. We really need everyone's help," Munro said.

Ponce de Leon is anxious about the total collection, but she is not worried about student involvement.

"Shaker always rises to the occasion when it comes to giving to those less fortunate," Ponce de Leon said.

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Top 10 Beer-Drinking Nations (per year)

1. Czech Republic- 140 Liters/head
2. Germany- 137.5 Liters/head
3. Ireland- 130.8 Liters/head
4. Slovakia- 130 Liters/head
5. Denmark- 127.6 Liters/head
6. Austria- 125 Liters/head
7. Luxembourg- 122 Liters/head
8. Belgium- 110.5 Liters/head
9. Hungary- 103.8 Liters/head
10. Australia- 102.1 Liters/head

Shakerite source, "The Top 10 of Everything 1996"

All things great and small

BY NED SACKMAN

Co-A&E Editor

Due to the abbreviated issue this month *Rants and Raves* has been shortened. In opposition to this all of my topics will be devoted to the single most important factor in life—size.

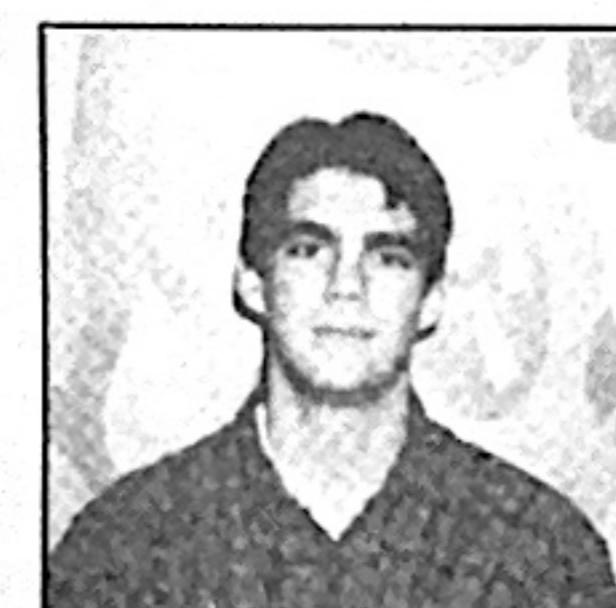
Go Large- Everyone wants to be just a little bit bigger, and it's great when a fast food chain like McDonald's gives you a chance to go LARGE! on those fries.

Big Boy- Who is that ridiculous kid standing up in overalls? Am I going to end up looking like him if I eat at Big Boy? I think I'll go to Hardee's instead.

BFI- They're a company that makes trash cans and stuff. I don't really know what their letters stand for, but someone told me they stood for big friggin' industry. They're everywhere.

Big Red pop- There is a secret plot among the redheads to permeate our society with all things red. Executives run around wearing red power ties, red fire engines whirl through our streets, and dangerously addictive Big Red pop is sold to our youth.

Big John Stud- The best wrestler since Hacksaw Jim Dugan to dominate the ranks of the WWF.



BY BRENDAN MASINI

Co-A&E Editor

Before we depart from our beloved school for Christmas break we bring you another (slightly abbreviated) episode of *Rants and Raves*. In honor of this small issue, I dedicate this compilation of facts to all things short and small.

Nicknames- Nicknames save us time every day. Who has the time to say Richard, Alfred or Andrew. Dick, Al and Drew are much faster. But there is a limit. If you say B-Doggy-Dog instead of Brian, then you're wasting your time and mine.

Dwarves vs. Midgets- These two words are sometimes interchanged, when they really are not the same at all. Yes, it's true that both are very small people, yet you have to remember that a dwarf has disproportionate features while a midget is just a smaller version of a regular person.

Elves vs. Trolls- A distinction must also be made between these diminutive creatures. Elves are good creatures (they make Santa's toys) who like to play pranks. Trolls, however, are demon monsters that inhabit caves and hills. Elves: good. Trolls: bad.

Microchips- It is amazing that something so small can make video games possible.

What's Goin' On?

With two weeks to spend away from school there will be plenty of time to check out what's going on.

*Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen- Wilbert's Bar and Grill, Dec. 19

*Moonlight Drive- Peabody's DownUnder, Dec. 26

*Java Bean- Peabody's DownUnder, Dec. 28

*Rusted Root- CSU Convocation Center, Dec. 29

*First Light- Peabody's DownUnder, Dec. 31

*Dave Mathews & Tim Reynolds- Akron Civic Center, Jan. 18

*Tan-tastic Tanning & Nail Salon- 5115 Wilson Mills Road, 473-1511

Ticket information is available from Ticketmaster at 241-5555

Bush cuts it up with Razorblade Suitcase

BY BRENDAN MASINI

Co-A&E Editor

The waiting is over. Bush has come out with an album following their smash debut effort a year ago. *Razorblade Suitcase* takes the hard rocking quartet and builds upon the sound they created with their last album.

A difference you will notice on this album is that you may not fall in love with the songs the first time that you hear them, as was the case for many of the songs off of their debut *Sixteen Stone*. The music on this album sometimes has a haunting quality about it that takes a few listenings to grow accustomed to. This is evident on "Greedy Fly," where strategic pauses amid guitar riffs break up and enhance the music.

A slight change in style should have been expected considering the choice of Steve Albini as producer. Albini is most well known for his work with Nirvana on their *In Utero* album. His recording style puts emphasis on the

slightest sounds, such as fingers moving across guitar strings, which gives the music more of a live feel. His punk-grunge background adds to the already booming sound of the band.

The album opens with a thunderous anthem, "Personal Holloway," in traditional Bush fashion with powerful guitars and singer Gavin Rossdale's driving vocals.

They quickly slow it down with their first single off of the album, "Swallowed." This song was an instant hit on the radio and for good reason. Rossdale's vocals carry the powerful melody in the tradition of the smash hit, "Glycerine," off their first album.

Another notable song on the album is "Straight No Chaser," in which Rossdale croons, "Drink life as it comes, straight no chaser." This is another slow song in the "Glycerine" style, yet it has an identity all of its own.

Razorblade Suitcase helps Bush avoid the sophomore slump that many bands fall into with their second album and secures them as a player in the second coming of the British invasion.



Razorblade Suitcase. Inside, Bush show what they're made of.

Students in tights shine bright under the lights

BY SCOTT FULLER

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Who doesn't love a musical? The electric atmosphere on the night of a performance, the bright lights cascading down and illuminating the stage; the rows of dimly lit faces gazing in zombielike fascination at the brilliant actors before them; the brassy, toe-tapping musical numbers, the lively, energetic dancing, the soothing, tearful love ballads... what a magnificent experience!

I recount what I wrote last issue not only because I was too lazy to compose another introduction to this article, but also because if you were not aware what I was speaking of before seeing the recent production of *Guys & Dolls*, now you surely are. It was, in a word, spectacular! The music was exceptional, the acting top-notch, the costumes and set stunning... as far as I could tell all facets of the play were stellar, and quite clearly a substantial amount of time and effort had been made to ensure that everything turned out just right. A little quirk here and there possibly, but BAH!!!, one would be a silly perfectionist, and most likely a member of the cast, to

point out these minuscule faults. Everyone involved in the play is deserving of the highest praise, and I should hope any accolades they receive will at least begin to compensate for the splendid show which they presented to us. In particular, I would like to commend the most prominent players, who were each impeccably cast and performed their roles with impressive ability and enthusiasm:

◆ **Jimmy Dunn as Benny-** He landed quite a role for a spunky little freshman. Yet with a toothpick dangling nonchalantly from his mouth, the effortlessness with which he played his part reveals that he is indeed a promising actor.

◆ **Temar Underwood as Nicely-Nicely-** In his walk and his talk he had the whole goofy persona down pat. A talented singer, his rendition of "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," brought the house down.

◆ **David Deming as Harry the Horse-** Of course we're a bit biased, but here at the Shakerite we believe Dave deserved a singing role. Nevertheless, there was nobody else who could have pulled off the gangster accent like he did. Dave was hilarious, but then again, we laugh at them all the time anyway.

◆ **James Bates as Arvide-** Another marvelous actor with a magnificent voice, his future is bright. He nailed the things he had to do for his minor role, and "More I Cannot Wish You," was breathtaking.

◆ **Christine Callsen as Sarah Brown-** Her beautiful voice and acting experience shone through a role in my mind not as naturally likable as some of the others. She did well showing both the "proper" and "wild" sides of the character.

◆ **Sara Spagnuolo as Miss Adelaide-** What a performance! She sang wonderfully, spoke her lines crisply, and maintained the attitude and accent of her character throughout the show. Her many years of

theater were rather evident. The star of the show?

◆ **Patrick McMenamin as Nathan Detroit-** It never really mattered whether or not he was a good singer, and I believe he was, because he is a phenomenal actor. He played the part with continual vigor and zeal, and his dramatic antics earned the constant approval of the audience.

◆ **Bernard Williams as Sky Masterson-** He provided an interesting contrast to Marlon Brando's portrayal of the role in the film version of *Guys & Dolls*. Are they comparable? Hmmmm... that's quite an honor to even consider it. One thing is for certain: Williams is truly a better singer.

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Students search for ways to have a ball on New Year's Eve

“

I may go down to the flats with friends and try renting a small boat to have a private party.”

-Janette Tate, junior

“

A Classic: If you want to see a concert but are in the mood for something mellow, the Cleveland Pops Orchestra will present a concert and dancing at the Convocation Center at 9 p.m. Tickets start at \$20 and are still available.

“

While some people are stuck in Shaker watching the ball drop on TV, I am going to be in Times Square watching it live.”

-Cristen O’Grady, senior

“

Playhouse Square: At 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 31, 42nd Street will be showing at Playhouse Square. To reserve tickets call 751-4444. Prices range from \$23.50 to \$37.50.

“

I am going to sort of a techno, rave style party in Mayfield. I will meet a lot of people I don’t know, and it should be a good way to spend New Year’s Eve.”

-Andrew Balcerzak, sophomore

“

Dining in: If going out is not your thing but you still want to partake in New Year fun, invite some friends over, get dressed up and have a dinner party. It is a cheap way to spend the evening and is a lot of fun.

“

I am going out on a date with a girl I know in Baltimore. Her family is taking us out for dinner.”

-Michael Thomas, freshman

1996

1997

Shaker Heights mom needs after-school helper

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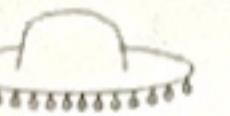
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New Year Around the World



German

- Fortune telling
- Carp served as sign of future \$
- Dried pea soup brings luck
- Light firecrackers



Mexican

- Midnight Mass of the Cock
- Carnival fair with circle dancing
- Hang star on door to guide 3 kings



Judaism

- Rosh Hashana in autumn
- Pray to be written in Book of Life
- Time for clean slate
- Honey & apples are eaten as symbols of sweet year



Russian

- 12 day celebration
- Grandpa Frost (counterpart of Santa)
- Fir tree is symbol



Chinese

- Timed with lunar calendar
- 15 days of joy
- Day 15 = Feast of Lanterns (dragon leads parade)

It's a small world

Celebrations vary, but many cultures enjoy New Year festivities

BY TOBY BULLOFF
Co-Feature Editor

Spanish children put out hay for the three kings' camels.

Spanish teacher Kim Ponce de Leon said that the New Year celebration is a carnival-like fiesta.

"Often people party at midnight going door-to-door with musical instruments and picking up people as they go on, which is called *paranda*," Ponce de Leon said.

She said traditional foods are pork and blood pudding made from roasted pig.

She also said extensive firecrackers and outdoor decorations such as flowers and streamers make the event like our July 4th.

Some children play with pinatas and young men and women dance outside in circles. Cock fights and horse races are popular spectator events.

The New Year celebration also has a religious aspect. In Mexico, Midnight Mass of the Cock, *Misa de Gallo*, is held, and people make wishes for the year at the Cross of Petitions in the town center.

At midnight, Spanish people exclaim: *Feliz Navidad!*

Chinese New Year

Cecilia Wong, mother of freshman Francis Fungsang, said the Chinese New Year occurs on Feb. 7 this year. Her family owns the Pearl of the Orient restaurants and uses the holiday to gather together.

"It is a family time. At the West side Pearl, we serve a big dinner for employees and families. There is also a traditional lion dance on the West side which is a lot of fun with drums and firecrackers to ward off evil," Wong said.

She said the 15 day holiday focuses on removing evil and creating joy. The 15th day is the Festival of Lanterns. A dragon, which represents goodness and strength, leads a parade. Wong said certain foods, decorations, gifts and clothing are good omens for the New Year.

"Pig's feet represent riches and they are wrapped in dried oysters and seaweed which mean prosperity. People wear new clothes, give lots of candy and kids get money in little envelopes. Also, people do not sweep their floors because they might sweep away the good luck. People used to cook enough for 15 days so that they would not have to cook on the New Year. Most people do not do that now," Wong said.

The waiting period right before the new year is called *Shou-Shi*. At midnight, Chinese people say *Kung-shi*, which means "I humbly wish you joy."

Spanish New Year

The Spanish New Year encompasses a holiday season starting on Dec. 6 with Three Kings Day and ending on Jan. 1 with *Feliz Año Nuevo*. Three Kings Day is a cross between Christmas and St. Nicholas Day, when children get gifts and put out shoes with candy. In addition,

Germans call Dec. 31 *Silvester* and Jan. 1 *New Jahr*. German teacher Mary Ashcraft said the main celebration activities are drinking, eating, and setting off firecrackers, *feuerwerk*.

Junior Michael Speith is from Germany, and plans to go back for the holidays. He greatly enjoys the German New Year celebration.

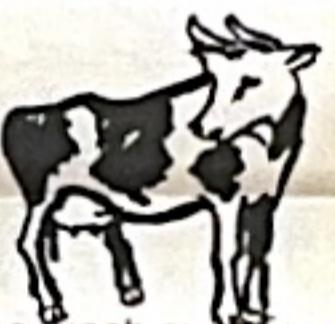
"Everyone gets together in the town center and drinks champagne while they watch the fireworks. Everybody gets to set off rockets. It is a lot of fun for pyromaniacs, like me," Speith said.

Ashcraft said a special drink Germans make is called *Feuerzangenbowle*, a cone doused in alcohol and sugar and lit on fire until a sweet liquid forms. Also, *silvester-abend*, a wine punch and *pflaunkuchen*, a kind of doughnut are made. According to German legend, both carp and dried pea soup are good omens of money and luck according to German legend. As they say in Germany, *Prost neujahr!*

1997:

YEAR OF THE OX

According to the Asian Zodiac, each year is assigned a characteristic animal. There are 12 animals which are arranged in a 60-year cycle according to ancient folklore. This New Year's Eve, we will enter the Year of the Ox. The Ox often appears in Asian mythology, and the Year of the Ox is generally considered a good year when progress can be achieved by patience and hard work. People born in the Year of the Ox have the characteristics of the animal. They are outwardly quiet and tolerant, but may be quickly aroused into anger.



After the party: when the fun is over, the time for serious resolutions begins

"My resolution is to be nicer to my brother and sister. I want to keep it, and I sort of do, only it is hard."

-Joni Czyzak, freshman

"Usually my resolutions come true whenever I make them, not just on New Year."

-Amy Ackerman, junior

"This year I am resolving to bury all hatchets with my enemies."

-Nicolas Craft, junior

"I want to be a more cautious driver."

-Gina Catalano, senior

"I always resolve to stop procrastinating and I never get around to it."

-Sarah Siegel, junior

"This year I'm gonna gain muscle. I am going to be working out like a dog."

-Jason Callahan, sophomore

"I'm not going to make a resolution because I never usually stick to it."

-Katherine Brohard, senior

"I'm going to try to park in the teachers' lot every day and not get caught."

-Sam Root, senior

"I need to calm down with my attitude, because I get frustrated easily."

-Paige Strickland, junior

I am going out on a date with a girl I know in Baltimore. Her family is taking us out for dinner."

-Michael Thomas, freshman

Shaker Heights mom needs after-school helper

- ✓ non-smoking
- ✓ possible full-time in summer
- ✓ experienced
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- ✓ extra pay for light housework
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Shaker Heights Teachers' Association



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THE RITE IDEA

Parking gates v. reality

Rumor has it that the security staff would like to install gates in both teacher parking lots. The proposal calls for parking gates similar to those in parking garages and other for-profit parking lots. If installed, the gates would be operated by another recent proposal, computerized ID cards which might be distributed later this semester.

The officially sanctioned reason behind this proposal is to provide enough parking for teachers and keep students and unwelcome visitors out of the lots. Although reserving parking spaces for teachers is no doubt a noble and lofty cause, the wisdom of spending money on installing gates and lasers to read the ID cards and the continuing maintenance that will be necessary is, well, questionable.

The high school is facing problems more pressing than who parks where and how far they have to walk to actually get to the school, problems which could be solved or minimized with a bit of extra money.

Take the student bathrooms, for instance. Many of the stalls are without doors, toilet seats, toilet paper or trash bags. Instead of liquid soap, as recommended by health professionals and government health boards, most bathrooms are equipped with bar soap. The sinks are in a state of constant disrepair and the toilets themselves frequently clog up.

It's pretty safe to assume that most students would prefer clean, functioning restrooms to gate-protected teacher parking. In terms of student satisfaction and practical application, soap dispensers, stall doors with locks and firmly anchored toilet seats win out over ID-operated parking gates.

The student bathrooms are not the only aspect of a Shaker education that could stand to have some money thrown at them. Several computer labs at the high school are painfully outdated. Their computers have the memory capacity of a tired three-year-old, the speed and reliability of a '79 Yugo and the online potential of, say, a rock. The main word processing program available to students, Microsoft Works 3.0, is not only incompatible with the more recent programs many students have in their homes, but is generally recognized in the computer world as an inherently defective program.

There are other worthwhile ways to spend our money: we could provide better facilities for learning disabled students, hire more teachers in order to create smaller, more effective classes, or lower the cost of student fees and student lunches. Frankly, spending money on parking gates and ID scanners when there are other, more urgent problems facing students and teachers is clearly misguided.

CHEERS & JEERS

Cheers to the entire cast of *Guys and Dolls*. You bowled us (and the orchestra pit) over.

Jeers to everyone who missed it.

Cheers to believing in Santa.

Jeers to finding out that the carrots you used leave for his reindeer ended up in the next day's beef stew.

Cheers to going on vacation for two weeks.



Jeers to chilling with your parents for two weeks.

Jeers to finals.

Cheers to seniors for these being the last ones we'll ever take!

Cheers to 1997!!!!!!

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SHAKERITE

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Shakerite artwork by Dan Moody

THE TOP TEN

presents that maybe aren't as thoughtful as you thought...

6. Giving your girlfriend any type of waxing kit, bleaching solution or facial hair remover.
5. Giving a vegetarian a gift certificate to Mountain Jack's Steakhouse.
4. Giving your best friend a framed picture of you and her ex-boyfriend.
3. Tecmo Super Bowl. Actually, Tecmo is the best gift ever.
2. Giving one of your teachers a gift certificate to the "Big and Beautiful" ladies' store – for his wife.
1. Browns tickets.

...and the number one present is...

School spirits

Does Underage drinking spell f-u-n or d-i-s-a-s-t-e-r?

BY MILES BERGER

Co-Editor-in-Chief

It's Friday night, and a lot of students are probably out relaxing from a hard week's work with a few drinks. They aren't doing any harm to anyone, but they'll be in trouble if they get caught. "That's not right, they shouldn't be drinking and where did they get that alcohol?" some parents and teachers would say.

Well, I say that those parents and teachers should mind their own business. Underage drinking is a misdemeanor, like a minor traffic offense, and it carries penalties of probation and a fine only in severe cases.

"But if underage drinking is a crime, then shouldn't underage people refrain from drinking?" some would ask. Well, yes and no. There are some crimes that are clearly morally wrong, like murder or rape, but there are plenty of other things that are illegal but not morally wrong. Say you come to a red light late at night and

Drink and be merry

nobody else is around, so you decide to go through it. Is your action morally wrong?

Obviously, the answer is no. But going through the light was risky in the sense that cars might have been coming the other way and you didn't see them. Thus, if you get caught, you pay a fine to society for potentially creating a risk that might have put the lives of others in danger.

In all likelihood, though, if you have good vision and you stop and look both ways before going through the red light, you are probably not putting anyone else at risk. Your action is technically illegal, so if you get caught you have to pay a penalty, but it is not morally wrong.

Underage drinking is very similar to running that red light. It is not morally wrong by any reasonable standards, but it is still technically illegal.

This is where most of the confusion starts: most people don't understand that morals and laws are two different things, and many laws are not morally based. Underage drinking is not any more immoral than legal drinking, it is just more illegal. Yet aside from legality, I don't see what's so wrong about a couple of teenagers kicking back with a few beers after a stressful week of school (and trust me, as any student would tell you, school is stressful), provided that one of them acts as the designated driver. Drinking, within reasonable limits, is a victimless crime and is not inherently wrong. If it causes other problems, like fights, then drinking becomes immoral, but as long as it does not cause these other problems, it is not immoral.

Since underage drinking is not morally wrong, adults shouldn't harass students about it. If a few students want to kick back after a hard week's work with a few beers, it shouldn't be a big deal. Instead of coming down hard on kids, adults should just say, "Fine, if you think you're an adult and you're ready to do adult things like drinking, then you have to accept the consequences of your actions, as an adult would. If you get caught, then you have to pay the fines and be the one in trouble." By treating students with respect in this manner, parents and others can help ease their transition from dependent adolescents to independent, responsible adults.

Such an approach implies that adults give students a certain amount of trust, and that could be a scary idea for some. But in all truth, if adults knew that students drink as much as they do and still accomplish all the other great things they accomplish, adults would realize that students deserve a lot more trust and respect than we get now.



BY SCOTT FULLER

Co-Editor-in-Chief

With New Year's Eve swiftly approaching, now seems an appropriate time to address one of the most loathsome evils that exists in our high school: the ridiculous amount of drinking which takes place. I am extremely ashamed to say I have far too many friends who partake in this practice, and while I don't protest the act of drinking itself, I protest the forces behind it. Evil lies not within drinking, but within the peer pressure which makes people drink.

A perfect saint I am not; as much as I would like to deny it, at times I have been influenced by my peers. My friends said it was cool to get a skater's cut, so I did. My friends said it was cool to get Timberlands, so I did (although they really are pretty sweet). My friends said it was NOT cool to hit on freshmen, so I grudgingly didn't. Yet, when my friends ask me to drink, I don't. Why? I don't really have a good answer.

I believe the true reason, and herein lies my plea to my fellow students, is that I listen to my conscience. Perched inside my head is a little man, who sits, wisely taking in everything, and passes judgments about my actions. He instructs me as to the best course of action; while at times I may question his motives, I believe that clever little man inside my head knows what is best.

"Who cares that you're failing math? Instead of going in to see your teacher, I think it would be much more fun to go play a round of golf after school," he said. That was probably stupid. But I listened.

"So what if your history final is tomorrow? I think your time would be much better spent watching the James Bond marathon on TBS," he said. That was probably stupid. But I listened.

"Who cares that everybody else is drinking? I don't think you should." That might be stupid, too. But I listened.

It's quite unrealistic of me to believe that all of the people in this school are going to pay much attention to their consciences. Yet a line must be drawn somewhere. Laws about alcohol are instituted because of careless people who involve themselves in drinking and driving and take little responsibility for their actions.

"I would never in my right mind drink and drive!" you might say. Congratulations, I agree, but it is the basic intoxicating nature of alcohol to remove people from their right minds. After all, isn't that why people drink? For example, let's say I go out with my friendly adversary Miles here, who is to be the designated driver for the

evening. I get smashed. Miles finds this humorous. He laughs at me. I become angry. I pound his head in. Far-fetched? Not really, considering there are times I might pound Miles' head in even without a few drinks in me. Oh yes, and then there are all the charming drinking games. Considering my passion for competition, I say bring it on! Last one to pass out wins! Alright! Afterwards, how 'bout a nice-old fashioned game of Russian roulette? Hooray!

What I am simply asking is that people truthfully assess the reasons that they drink. I cannot accept the excuse that "I drink just because I like the taste," because if that were the case then on the weekends everybody would be chillin' with fat mugs of Strawberry Quik, undeniably the best substance on earth, instead of brews. I cannot accept the excuse that "I drink just to relax and escape my problems," because going bowling or seeing a movie or whatever else one might do instead are just as effectively relaxing and in my humble opinion a great deal more fun. By not getting drunk it may be that I am missing out on one of the memorable experiences of high school— "don't knock it until you've tried it," I suppose. Perhaps so. But I have witnessed such a ludicrous number of people sell out to that vile demon of peer pressure that I am thoroughly disgusted by the entire affair.

PARTY TIME or the straight and narrow

Students say what they think about the problem of underage drinking

"I'm the designated driver."

Sara Spagnuolo, senior

"I think it's all right for students to drink as long as they don't put themselves in danger by driving."

Lauren Breland, senior

"Parents think that it's hard for us to get alcohol, but it's so easy. Everyone sells to us."

Julie Rosenberg, senior

"In some cases, it is inappropriate, especially when people are out of control. It is appropriate in religious ceremonies and such."

Isaac Gertman, sophomore

"I think it's situational. There are some kids who are responsible enough to drink, but there are also a lot of kids who abuse alcohol. They drink just to get drunk."

Brian Ackley, senior

"I don't drink just because I don't like to lose control."

Shelli Calland, senior

"People get carried away and decide it's the only way to have fun."

Jill Webster, senior

"I don't drink because I don't like the taste."

Brandon Jackson, freshman

Raiders of the Month

BY TOMMY GELEHRTER
Co-Sports Editor

It takes more than natural athletic ability to be the most talented female swimmer in Shaker history. Head swim coach Ernest Welsch said that senior Schuyler Holmes has what it takes.

"Not only is Schuyler extremely talented, but she also works amazingly hard and is extremely competitive. She has all the attributes needed to be so successful and so good," Welsch said. "She is probably the most talented female swimmer in this high school's history."

Holmes has been swimming for the past eight years through the Shaker Sharks United States Swimming pro-

gram. In the first three years of her high school career she has set three school records, including the 100-yard butterfly, made the Junior National Team two times and is a six-time All-American swimmer. Holmes said she has fun swimming and it is something that she likes to do.

"I enjoy swimming because I think that I get as much back from the sport as I put into it," she said.

Holmes swam two practices a day for the whole summer and continued this routine in September, October and November in order to get ready for her senior season.

Welsch said Holmes' dedication is extraordinary and it leads her to remarkable success as a swimmer.

"She is really dedicated and spends a lot of extra time swimming. She is almost always the first one to arrive at practice

and the last one to leave," he said. "She is a leader by example and that is the best kind of leader to have."

"Schuyler is definitely a good role model for the team," senior teammate Cara Barnard said.

"Not only is Schuyler an elite swimmer, but more importantly, she is a high quality person, she has a good sense of humor and she is very positive," Welsch said.

"She is unquestionably a coach's dream," he said.

Holmes has applied to Northwestern, University of Wisconsin, Princeton, University of North Carolina, Cornell University and Miami University (Ohio).

"I think that swimming at one of the schools that I applied to would be a great experience," Holmes said.



SCHUYLER HOLMES

Shakerite photo by John Gonsenhauser

BY LAURA CURTISS
Co-Sports Editor

Playing the most of any varsity basketball player and leading the team to victory this year is sophomore shooting guard Jon Higgins.

Higgins has been shooting hoops since fifth grade. He switched from football after realizing he was the tallest guy around. Higgins said he has a fierce competitive edge.

"Losing is not in my vocabulary," he said.

Coach Bob Wonson said Higgins is the closest thing the team has to a captain, an excellent leader and possibly a future college basketball star.

"Higgins is well-liked, friendly, out-

going, and he sets a good example," Wonson said. "He has the potential to be a Division I basketball player in college."

Higgins scored 25 points in a recent game against Benedictine. Wonson said Higgins not only works hard in games, but in practice as well.

"He sets the pace for the team," Wonson said.

Higgins agreed with the coach and said he sees himself picking up the team when they are down.

"I'm there to provide a spark to get us started early if we need to," Higgins said.

Wonson not only complimented Higgins' leadership skills, but also his physical abilities on the court.

"Jon's strength is his outside shooting. His game has developed a lot since

last year [he also played on varsity]. He's handling the ball more and playing better defense," Wonson said. "Higgins is a very well-rounded player."

Sophomore player Todd Finley said the team often counts on Higgins.

"He can always hit a 'J,'" Finley said.

Higgins said the team has a lot of depth and they run a good game but need to work on their defense. He said his offensive skills can help the team, but to watch out because he cannot stand to lose.

"I'm a good offensive player, but I'm competitive; losing really hurts me," he said. "Ask anybody I've played with, when I lose I'm not a happy guy to be around."



JON HIGGINS

Shakerite photo by John Gonsenhauser

RED RAIDER WRAP-UP

M. Swimming

Record: 2-0 (1.000)
• Won Solon Relays
• 52-meet consecutive win streak

W. Swimming

Record: 2-0 (1.000)
• Second at Solon Relays
• 52-meet consecutive win streak

M. Basketball

Record: 3-0 (1.000)
• Playing at Lakewood
6:00 Fri.

W. Basketball

Record: 2-3 (.400)
• Playing at Lakewood
6:00 tonight

Ice Hockey

Record: 6-2-1 (.667)
• 4-0 In Red Division
• First place in division

Wrestling

Record: 3-0 (1.000)
• Next meet: Brecksville Tournament Dec. 27

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Just when you thought nobody was looking...

SHAKER: 5 UNIVERSITY: 0

The varsity hockey team opened the season with a blast last month.

UNBELIEVABLE - In the hockey team's home-opening victory over U.S., junior Andy Carlson had the best game of his life when he proved that his pre-season work paid off and he scored a hat trick (three goals) against the Preppers.

ANIMAL HOUSE - Also at the hockey home opener, many raw and dead animals made their way onto the ice. Prepper and Raider fans threw raw fish onto the ice. With Shaker leading 4-0, U.S. fans got rowdy and threw dead mice at goal-keeper Scott Graham. Athletic director Jerry Masteller made a futile attempt to stop these acts in an announcement telling fans to refrain from throwing objects onto the ice. Unfortunately, the announcement went unheard.

SOCER STUD - While training in the cafeteria for Takatori next year, junior soccer superstar Michael Gross bared it all once again. Junior Jason "Poopie" St. Onge insulted Gross' shirt. In turn, Gross took off the shirt and spent the remainder of the period half naked.

THE GREATEST LIE - Student chemistry teacher Victor "Sennson" Senn had his students believing a large stretch of the truth recently. A few weeks after Senn began at Shaker he informed some of his students that he was the back-up public address announcer for the Cleveland Cavaliers and Lumberjacks for games at Gund Arena. After two first period students obtained Senn's home phone number and pager number, Senn revealed to his students that the whole story about the announcing job was a lie.

JED RETURNS - Last month, junior Jed Wolpaw made a valiant return to the men's swim team. While the rest of the team prepared for the beginning of practice, Wolpaw was secretly dressing and preparing for his big comeback. After the team had gotten into the water, Wolpaw came in the back door of the pool and made an incredible leap into the water. To all of the team's amazement Wolpaw was dressed in swimming trunks, a snorkel, swim mask and fins. After swimming a few laps Wolpaw demonstrated his new and improved start off the blocks for the team and then decided that his comeback was over, and he left the pool.